



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

“ WORTH AND WORTHINESS.

“ *Hast* thou something ? Impart ; I’ll willingly pay thee
what ’s proper.

Art thou something ? O, then souls I with thee would ex-
change.” — p. 344.

“ FRIEND AND FOE.

“ DEAR to me is a friend ; but a foe, too, often is useful :

Shows me the friend, what I *can* ; shows me the foe, what
I *should*.” — p. 349.

“ FORUM OF WOMAN,

“ WOMAN, presume not to judge a man’s particular actions !

Judge thou only *the man*, — there shall thy sentence avail,”
— p. 351.

The volume closes with some seventy or eighty pages of notes, original and translated, illustrative of the text. Mr. Dwight is apparently a good German scholar, and he writes like a man of generous impulses and warm poetical sensibility. The sincerity and strength of his own convictions makes him decided and earnest in the expression of them. His admiration of Goethe seems unbounded ; we should have said extravagant, were it not that our own half-knowledge of that famous man, makes us diffident about applying that epithet to the views of one who has studied him thoroughly.

ART. XI. — *Gazetteer of the State of Missouri*, by AL-
PHONSO WETMORE. St. Louis. 8vo. 1837.

FEW of our readers, we suppose, are prepared to be told, that Missouri is not only the largest State in the Union, but that it is unsurpassed and perhaps unequalled by any other in natural resources. Yet such is the fact ; taking into view its advantages of climate, soil, rivers, variety of agricultural productions, and mineral wealth, we do not know of any State which is entitled to take precedence of this.

The history of Missouri, as a home of civilized man, begins with the cession by France to England, of her posses-

sions east of the Mississippi, at the peace of 1763. The French then, relinquishing their possessions on the east of the river, began to make progress in colonizing its western banks. The first town founded in Missouri was St. Geneviève, which was laid out by a party of French from Kaskaskia, in Illinois, in the course of the year of the cession to Great Britain. Other settlements, west of the Mississippi, were about the same time formed. In the year 1764, the city of St. Louis was founded, by M. Laclède, a partner in a company which was extensively engaged in the fur trade, a business at that time already very lucrative. It was selected as the *dépôt* for Upper Louisiana, in which term was included all the State of Missouri and the territory west and northwest of the same. In this wide tract of country, a monopoly of the trade with the Indian tribes had been granted, by M. d'Abaddie, Director-General of Louisiana, to the company just alluded to. It was wealthy, and clothed with very valuable privileges, so that the settlement at St. Louis almost immediately assumed considerable importance. The selection of a place, moreover, was so judicious, that, independently of any other circumstances, it could not fail to attract early attention, being so evidently destined to become, what we now live to see it, the metropolis of a wide-spread and fertile region. It is one of those points which seem formed by nature for the sites of large cities, uniting all the advantages that are essential, on the one hand, for the comfort and health of their immediate inhabitants, and, on the other, for the convenient exportation of the produce of the country, and the importation of whatever is needed for the supply of its wants. Nothing can permanently keep back a place possessing such advantages. Thirty years ago, the towns of St. Charles, St. Geneviève, and Cape Girardeau, were competitors of St. Louis in point of population and wealth. The difference of natural advantages has already made a marked distinction among them; and it is safe to foretell, that in St. Louis will prove to have been laid the foundations of one of the largest cities of the West, perhaps of the largest inland city of the United States. It has only just begun to attract the attention which it deserves. In four years, reckoned from the winter of 1833-4, its population and business doubled; and it is reasonable to expect that, ten years hence, it will contain fifty thousand inhabitants.

The fur trade, and the exportation of lead, constituted the chief business of the early settlers of Upper Louisiana, as indeed they made the occupation of the majority of its inhabitants down to the period of its coming into the possession of the United States. Of the emigrants into this region, in the years immediately succeeding its first occupation by the French, some began to form new settlements, as Vuide Poche, afterwards called Carondelet, Florissant, and Les Petites Côtes, now St. Charles ; others joined the infant settlement at St. Louis, which, soon coming to be considered the capital of Upper Louisiana, became the residence of the French and afterwards of the Spanish governors.

But the hope of living under their own laws and rulers, which had brought the settlers together, was speedily disappointed. The weakness of France had already compelled her to relinquish her last hold upon America. By a treaty, which was made with Spain in 1762, but was not fully carried into execution until 1769, she had ceded to that power all her territories west of the Mississippi, together with the island and city of New Orleans.

"The fate of the Louisianians," says Stoddard, "was made known to them by a letter signed by the French king, dated April 21st, 1764, addressed to M. d'Abbadie, whom he calls Director-General and Commandant of Louisiana, informing him of the treaty of cession, and directing him to give up, to the officers of Spain, the country and colony of Louisiana, together with the city of New Orleans and the military posts. He expressed a desire for the prosperity and peace of the inhabitants of the colony, and his confidence in the friendship and affection of the king of Spain. He, at the same time, declared his expectation, that the ecclesiastics and religious houses, which had the care of the parishes and missions, would continue to exercise their functions ; that the superior council and ordinary judges would continue to administer justice according to the laws, forms, and usages of the colony ; that the inhabitants would be preserved and maintained in their estates, which had been granted to them by the governor and director of the colony ; and that, finally, all these grants, though not confirmed by the French authorities, would be confirmed by his Catholic Majesty. The treaty of cession, dated the 3d of November, 1762, was never published, and the terms of it remain a secret to this day ; but there is good reason to believe that the sentiments, expressed by the French king, corresponded with the stipulations it contained."—*Sketches of Louisiana.* pp. 71, 72.

Four years elapsed before any attempts were made on the part of Spain to take possession of her newly-acquired territory. Even then the attempt was unsuccessful. The Spanish governor, who arrived in 1766, with a military force, found it prudent to abandon his design and return to Havana, so great was the excitement among the colonists, because the transfer had been made without their consent.

“ Things remained in this situation,” says Stoddard, “ till the 17th of August, 1769, when O'Reilly arrived, and took peaceable possession of the colony. He immediately selected twelve of the most distinguished leaders of the opposition, as the victims of resentment. Six of them were devoted to the halter, to gratify the malice of arbitrary power, and to strike terror into the other malecontents. The other six, deemed less guilty, and surely they were much less fortunate, were doomed to the dungeons of Cuba. This scene of blood and outrage made a deep impression of horror on the minds of the people, and will never be forgotten. In 1770, the Spanish authorities were established in Upper Louisiana.

“ O'Reilly was the first governor and intendant general, who exercised the Spanish power in Louisiana. As governor-general he was vested with the supreme power of the province, both civil and military ; and, as intendant-general he granted lands, prescribed the conditions, and confirmed the concessions made by his subordinates ; superintended the fiscal department, and the affairs of the Indians.” — *Ibid.*, pp. 72, 73.

On the 26th of November, 1769, he issued a proclamation changing the form of government in Louisiana, abolishing the authority of the French laws, and substituting those of Spain in their stead. From the time of its promulgation, the French laws ceased to have any authority, and all controversies were tried and decided conformably to the Spanish laws. To the credit of Spain, however, it should be recorded, that her governors conducted themselves with almost uniform moderation and impartiality towards the French inhabitants. This is abundantly proved by the fact, that the spirit of society in Louisiana does not seem to have been materially changed by the transfer to Spanish authority. New laws were of course introduced ; but, except at the very first, no opposition was made to their administration, and no outbreaks of public feeling took place. The manners and cus-

toms of the people continued French ; and, at the present day, we can hardly find any trace of the Spanish dynasty. It is, moreover, a remarkable fact, that when Louisiana again came under French dominion, in the year 1800, the French inhabitants were dissatisfied with the change.

In 1670, the Spanish governor, M. Rious, began to exercise authority in Upper Louisiana. The house in which he resided yet stands, in St. Louis. It is built in an old-fashioned, substantial manner, with a portico all around, and will probably long remain, a memorial of the past.

From this date, to the year 1800, the colonies in Upper Louisiana experienced scarcely any thing of great interest. The most remarkable events were, an attack by the British and Indians upon St. Louis, in 1778 ; an unparalleled rise of the Mississippi, in 1785 ; and the arrival, at St. Louis, of ten keel-boats, in 1788 ; each of which events gave a name to the year in which it occurred. The attack referred to was instigated by the Canadian English, by way of retaliation against Spain, for the part which she took in the American Revolution. The assailing force consisted of about fifteen hundred men, of whom the greater part were Indians. The whole Spanish settlements were in great danger, but the inhabitants of St. Louis behaved in a most spirited manner. When the attack was first threatened, they fortified the city with a breastwork, formed of the trunks of trees, placed upright upon the ground, with their interstices filled with earth. It formed a semicircle, extending to the bank of the river at both extremities, and terminating at each in a small fort. Three gates, each defended by heavy cannon, afforded a communication with the country. The remnants of these defences yet exist, and are pointed out by the old inhabitants. The attack itself differed in nothing from the usual mode of Indian warfare. It was entirely unsuccessful, and was followed by no important result.

In the year 1800, all the territory west of the Mississippi was ceded back again by Spain, to France. But during the three years of the continuance of French authority, nothing important occurred. No alteration was made in the jurisprudence of either Upper or Lower Louisiana, and the Spanish laws remained in full force, as the laws of the whole province ; a fact which is very important to those who would un-

derstand the legal history, and some of the present laws, of Missouri.*

By the treaty of April 30th, 1803, Louisiana was purchased by the United States from the French crown; and, six months after, the President was authorized to take formal possession. W. C. C. Claiborne was appointed Governor and Intendant-General of Louisiana, and Amos Stoddard was commissioned to exercise the powers and prerogatives of the Spanish Lieutenant-Governor of that province. The province of Louisiana was subsequently divided into two parts, the territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana; the latter comprehended the present State of Missouri, and, as a matter of convenience, was placed under the jurisdiction of the governor of Indiana, in whom all necessary powers had been vested. The governor at that time was General William H. Harrison, and by him the government was organized and put in motion, in a manner most creditable to him and satisfactory to Congress. In 1805, the district was organized as a Territory, the legislative power being vested in a governor and three judges. In 1812, an act of Congress gave it its present name, and transferred the legislative function to a General Assembly. In 1820, a State government was formed, a constitution being established on the 19th day of July, of that year. An Act of Congress, passed after a well-known protracted debate, gave Missouri admission to the Union on the 2nd day of March, 1821. From the period of the transfer of Louisiana to the jurisdiction of the United States, the country, which heretofore had been slowly settled, and by people of little enterprise, had begun to be very rapidly filled up. A new population then came in, and a new aspect was given to every thing. The laws began to be more fixed and better understood, and their administration to be more impartial. The settlements, after the lapse of a few years, became more

* "It is believed by many, that the whole body of the Spanish law was repealed and abolished by an act of the General Assembly, on the 14th of January, 1816, which adopts the common law and British statutes as the law of the territory. But the words of that act are, 'which common law and statutes are not contrary to the laws of this territory.' The 'laws of this territory' embrace the Spanish laws, 'not inconsistent with the acts of Congress in relation thereto,' altered, modified, and repealed as they had been by preceding legislatures. If, then, the Spanish laws were, previous to this act, a part of the law of the territory, it follows, that the common law and British statutes control only those cases, where the Spanish law, restricted and modified, and the acts of the legislature, had been silent." — *MS. Memoir by a Citizen of St. Louis.*

secure from Indian depredations, and every thing began to bear the marks of American enterprise. The original French inhabitants were, indeed, not much, if at all, benefited by these changes. Some of them were made, suddenly, very rich ; but the quiet and peaceful lives of the majority were sadly disturbed. In general, they could not sympathize with the schemes, nor compete with the enterprise, of the new comers, and were, therefore, soon thrown into a painful obscurity. For a long time after the introduction of American authorities, they mourned bitterly over the innovations, which, however useful, their unambitious minds could not regard as improvements. What was their loss, however, was the country's gain. Notwithstanding several severe checks to immigration, the population rapidly increased. The late war, for a time, effectually repressed the progress of the country, and many settlements, as those of Boon's Lick and Salt River, were entirely broken up. But peace was no sooner declared, than crowds of emigrants, chiefly from Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Carolinas, began to cross the Mississippi ; and, in the year 1817, the population of Missouri was supposed to be not less than sixty thousand.

It was not the French alone, who had cause to lament the occupation of Missouri by the Americans. To the Indians it brought the most unhappy consequences. That ill-fated people quickly perceived the change in the policy towards them, introduced by the new government. So long as they had none but the French to deal with, they were generally pacific. They had few causes of complaint, and no wrongs to avenge, and they very seldom raised the tomahawk against their white neighbours. With the exception of a few instances of inroad for the sake of plunder, the settlements remained undisturbed. The French, it is well known, have always pursued an indulgent policy towards the Indians. But, no sooner do the English or Americans come near them, than war and massacres begin. So it was in Missouri. The Americans had scarcely taken possession of that country, before causes of contention were found ; the fierce passions of the Indians were aroused, and but little pains taken to appease them ; the border warfare began, with all its horrors ; and, when the war with England commenced, many of the tribes were ready to give her that assistance, which she has never been backward to ask, or scrupulous to use. The years

from 1811 to 1814, inclusive, witnessed many bloody contests, in different parts of the State. The enterprise of Tecumseh, to excite a general Indian war, was attended with partial success ; but some of the principal tribes held back, and the determined measures of the government soon quelled the disturbances. Forts were built at several important points on the Missouri and Mississippi ; and, after the year 1814 no further contests ensued, except such as were immediately, and without much bloodshed, decided. The Indians, since that time, have been gradually, but rapidly, receding before the whites. Great numbers of them are yet left in the western parts of the State, and the territory immediately adjacent, from whom trouble is, perhaps not unreasonably, anticipated ; but the day of their strength and prosperity is gone, and the next generation will probably witness their almost utter extinction.

Between the years 1817 and 1824, in consequence of the commercial embarrassments, and the sudden check given to the fever of speculation, in the Western States, Missouri made comparatively little progress. But, since then, she has increased very rapidly, both in population and riches. The country is settled by a substantial class of people, chiefly farmers, from the more northern of the slave-holding States. Until recently, they have not exhibited the same degree of public spirit and enterprise, that is found in some others of the Western States ; but they have now awakened to the necessity of internal improvements, and several important works are projected or advancing. Education, for which ample provision has been made by law, is also beginning to receive the attention which it deserves.

The natural resources of this State are unusually varied and great. Its most remarkable feature is its mineralogical wealth. Almost every county in the State contains mines of some kind or other, many of which are unparalleled in richness. In a single county (Washington) are found iron, lead, copper, copperas, chalk, black-lead, brimstone, coal, freestone, limestone, millstones, resembling the French buhr, and some indications of silver and gold ; most of them in very large quantities. *The nitrate of potash*, or saltpetre, occurs in several caverns on the Merrimac and Current Rivers, in great abundance ; also upon the Gasconade, a hundred miles west of St. Louis. *Salt springs* are

found in almost every part of the State. *Compact limestone* is very abundant. It constitutes the basis rock at St. Louis, where it answers a valuable purpose as a building material. It is of a grayish blue color, and contains many fossil remains. *Chalk* has been discovered on the banks of the Mississippi, but in what quantities we do not know. *Sulphate of lime*, or gypsum, exists in great abundance. It is found on the Kansas River, the cliffs of which often consist of solid strata of this mineral; also in Jackson County, and elsewhere. *Alum* (sulphate of alumine and potash) is found, effloresced, in a cave in Bellevue, Washington County. *Buhr stone*, said to be equal to the French, is in great abundance on the Osage and Gasconade Rivers. *Potters' clay* has been discovered, of the best quality, on the right bank of the Mississippi, about forty miles above the junction of the Ohio, and extending for thirty-four miles up the river. The stratum varies in thickness from one to ten feet, rests on sandstone, and is covered by shell limestone, containing well characterized nodules and veins of flint. It is also found, ten feet below the surface, at Gray's Mine, Jefferson County, where it is snow-white, unctuous, becomes plastic by mixture with water, and is infusible at a very high heat. *Red chalk* is found in Washington County. Several springs in the vicinity of Herculanum, and one near St. Louis, are highly impregnated with *sulphur*, which is deposited on the stones, over which the water runs, in a yellow crust. *Coal*, of a good quality, is found in St. Louis, Howard, Cooper, Boon, Monroe, Saline, Lafayette, Gasconade, and almost all the counties of the State. *Sulphuret of zinc* is found, associated with sulphuret of lead, at the mines in Washington, Jefferson, and St. Francois Counties. *Oxyde of manganese* and *sulphuret of antimony* have both been discovered in Washington County and on the Merrimac.

But the great mineral wealth of Missouri is in its mines of copper, lead, and iron. We are not informed of any copper mines in the State, which are in actual operation; but the existence of the mineral, in great quantities, has been ascertained beyond question. We have seen several beautiful specimens, brought from different parts of the State, one of which, found in Washington County, almost upon the surface of the ground, was the richest that we have

ever seen. The lead mines of the State are better known. They are found, to the greatest extent, in the counties of Washington, St. Geneviève, St. François, Madison, and Jefferson, and also on the Osage River. Some of them have been worked for seventy years. Those in Washington County are thus described by the "Missouri Gazetteer."

"Potosi is situate about the centre of the mineral region ; and there are upwards of seventy-five lead mines now open and actually occupied within sixteen miles of the town, at which are engaged about five hundred hands in mining, though a great number have gone from this county to Fever River, Merrimac, and other mines, within the last two years. It is impossible to enumerate all the mines in Washington, for the whole county is, as it were, one vast mine. The mineral obtained here by the first process of smelting produces from sixty-five to seventy per cent., and by the second process about fifteen, making, in all, about eighty-five per cent. of clear, good lead. These five hundred hands raise about five million pounds of lead annually, which, at twenty-five or thirty dollars per thousand pounds, is worth about 150,000 dollars, making about 300 dollars to the hand."

These are probably the richest beds of ore in the State, but new discoveries of them, or of indications of their presence, are every year made, in different places, and probably not one half of them are yet known.

The *iron* mines are, however, the most remarkable. Some of these are so rich and so unprecedented in their character, that the descriptions of them are almost incredible, and seem like fabulous stories. Washington, St. François, and Madison Counties, which are adjacent to each other, contain enough iron to supply the world, for ages to come.

"The Iron Mountain, as it is commonly called, in the south-east corner of Washington County, is one of the most remarkable curiosities in the world. It is about one mile broad at the base, three hundred and fifty or four hundred feet high, and three miles long, literally covered with a bright, shining ore, having every appearance of metal which has been smelted. At the base of the mountain, the ore is in pieces of a pound weight or more, and, as you approach the apex of the hill, the pieces increase in size, to thousands of tons weight, until they assume the appearance of huge rocks, presenting to the astonished beholder a spectacle which cannot be described ; and those large masses are of a quality surpassing any

thing of the kind heretofore known to the world. Six miles south, in Madison County, is another mountain, larger than the one above, known in this county by the name of the 'Pilot Knob.' It is entirely covered with iron ore, in huge masses, larger and more abundant than the former."

Besides these iron mountains, all the hills of that district contain great quantities of ore. That whole tract of country is a vast bed of iron. The ore is, besides, remarkably pure. That from the "mountains" does not need to undergo any intermediate process, but may be wrought without being smelted into pigs. A pen-knife was recently made from the ore, with an exquisite polish and a fine edge. We need not speak of the immense value of such mines as these. They are worth an hundred times more than all the gold and silver of Mexico. We should remark, however, that they are perfectly accessible, and that their treasures may be brought into the market at as small an expense as the nature of the commodity admits. They are situated only about forty miles from the Mississippi, and but seventy from St. Louis, to which city a railroad is now in contemplation. An abundance of stone coal has lately been discovered in their vicinity, and the whole district abounds with water power. It will not be many years before their wealth is poured into St. Louis, and thence throughout the whole land. They render it certain, that Missouri must, at no very distant day, become one of the most important manufacturing States in the Union.

Except in the mineral districts, which are, in general, comparatively barren, the soil is uniformly good. It is, besides, very varied in its nature, so as to be adapted to a great variety of productions. The northern counties contain large tracts of excellent land, calculated for hemp and flax. Cotton is cultivated, although not to such advantage as in Mississippi and other southern States. Tobacco is raised in large quantities, and of the best quality. All the varieties of grain and grasses yield abundant crops. Garden vegetables grow to great perfection. Fruit trees, of all the kinds which belong to temperate climates, are successfully cultivated, and the fruit is at least equal to that in the eastern States. The timber includes almost all the valuable and ornamental varieties of the temperate zone. There are extensive pine forests on the Gasconade and Merrimac rivers. The facilities for raising stock are great, and farmers

direct their attention very much to this branch of their business. There are many parts of the State, consisting of rocky points and broken sections of country, which seem peculiarly fitted for sheep-pastures, and hold out great inducements for the operations of wool-growers. In short, the agriculturist can hardly go amiss, to whatever he turns his attention. There is not, perhaps, so large a body of rich land as in some other States, but there is so favorable an alternation of prairie and hilly country, of meadow and woodland, that it is all rendered valuable.

The State is throughout well watered. Mill sites and water power are found almost wherever they are needed. The Missouri River passes through the richest agricultural portion of the State, and is navigable for steamboats twenty-five hundred miles from its mouth. It has almost innumerable tributaries, which, together with those of the Mississippi, irrigate every part of the State. The Osage river is one of the most considerable. It empties into the Missouri, ten miles below Jefferson City, and is navigable for moderate-sized boats, for several hundred miles. The Gasconade is also a very important river, falling into the Missouri a hundred miles from its mouth, and passing through a very fertile and well-timbered country.

The climate of Missouri is, in general, pleasant and salubrious. Like that of all North America, it is very changeable, and subject to extremes of heat and cold; but it is, we think, decidedly milder, if we take the whole year through, than that of the same latitudes east of the mountains. We are aware that, in this opinion, we differ from a greater part of the authorities upon the subject of climate in the United States; but we have had ample means of observation, and we are confident in the conclusion now expressed. We think, that, while the summers are not at all more oppressive than they are in the corresponding latitudes on and near the Atlantic coast, the winters are shorter, and, with the almost universal exception of a few weeks of severe weather in February, very much milder. We are sure, that we have never witnessed, in any eastern city, a continuance of such beautiful weather, in the months of November, December, and January, as we have seen in the central parts of Missouri. The spring season, except the first half of March, is almost uniformly delightful.

In point of healthiness, this State will bear a favorable comparison with the other western States. It is not, of course, free from the diseases to which all newly settled countries are subject, such as "fever and ague," the disease which undermines many a strong constitution, and which, although not dangerous in itself, prepares the way for more fatal disorders. But, in most respects, the whole State may be considered healthy. The disease alluded to is generally confined to the borders of the rivers, and may be avoided by proper care.

The waters of the Missouri, and of most of its tributaries, in consequence of the nature of the soil that they flow through, are very wholesome, in which respect they are much superior to the Upper Mississippi, the Illinois, and, we think, the Ohio. The Missouri is singularly turbid; so much so, that it gives the same character to the whole Lower Mississippi; and new-comers are unwilling to drink its water; but they soon learn to think it the pleasantest and most refreshing beverage, and to prefer it, when settled, to the clearest spring water. Chemists who have analyzed it declare, that it is entirely free from all hurtful admixtures, which can by no means be said of the water of most of the Western rivers. This circumstance, of course, exerts a highly favorable influence on the health of the State. Very exaggerated reports have gone abroad, of the prevalence and fatality of the bilious fever. It is certainly the most fatal disease of the region, but moderate caution and foresight are sufficient to guard against it, and it never assumes an epidemic character. The freedom from consumption and its train of kindred disorders, of which there are hardly any cases in Missouri, is more than a set-off to all the diseases which are peculiar to that section of the country.

Could we proceed to speak of the commercial advantages of the State, we should be led to offer some speculations concerning the practicability of a direct intercourse between the mouth of Columbia River and the East Indies, which, if ever established, will be a source of immense wealth to the whole West, and especially to Missouri. But for this we have, at present, no room. What we have said may be of some avail, to show the inducements which the State offers to immigrants, and the importance which it is destined, at no remote day, to assume.